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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 64  
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to dedicate the black cultural center at  
Tennessee Technological University in honor of  
Leona Lusk Officer.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor those individuals whose  
diligence and hard work have made a significant impact on Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Leona Lusk Officer is one such notable person, who became the first black  
graduate in Tennessee Technological University's history; and

WHEREAS, a native of Sparta, Mrs. Officer spent 20 years in pursuit of her bachelor's  
degree in education; and

WHEREAS, having a profound love for the teaching profession, Mrs. Leona Officer was  
an elementary school teacher and attended classes in the summer at the Agricultural &  
Industrial State Normal School, which is now Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, when Tennessee Tech desegregated in 1964, Leona Officer enrolled as  
one of only three African Americans attending the university at the time; and

WHEREAS, following in their mother's footsteps, Mrs. Officer's daughter, Nancy Officer  
Hancock received a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State and is a teacher. Her son Steve  
received his bachelor's degree from Tennessee State and his master's degree from the  
University of Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, in recognition of her relentless educational pursuits, and the obstacles she and other African Americans endured at the time, the student body at Tennessee Technological University has requested that the black cultural center be named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, although Mrs. Leona Officer departed this earth in 1973, her memory will live on forever; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to specially honor one of Tennessee's finest citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Mrs. Leona Lusk Officer at the dedication of the Leona Lusk Officer Black Cultural Center at Tennessee Technological University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.